

The Evangel



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

December 2018



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331 S Cooper Road
Gilbert, AZ 85233

480-892-9166

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Friday by Appointment

Birthdays / Anniversaries

Birthdays in December



Terry Bowers	1
Andrew James	
Roberta Johnson	
Ruby Rosemond-Taylor	
Sarah Bowser	2
Michael Strazz	
Alyssa Alls	3
Caleb Redman	4
Jo Asplin	5
Abigail Koenig	6
Veronica Dailey	7
Virginia Franklin	
Miriam Gill	8
Al Reynolds	
Ruth Grace Comstock	9
Linda Allen	10
John Holmberg	
Christina Robertson Yoder	12

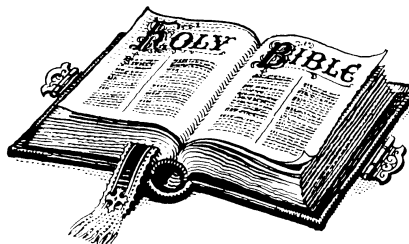
Alicia Hemingson	13
Robin Lee	
Ernie Broughton	14
Cassidy Gough	15
Alexandra Scharff	
Jason Mason	17
Save Melka	
Judith Pierce	
Kyera McCluskey	18
Jonell Woolsey	19
George Dailey	20
Steve Kopp	
Aldam Sukis	
Elesa Tinsley	27
Sylvia Harris	28
Dan Minks	29
Sarah Shanks	
Barbara Carroll	30
Phyllis Petrone	
Sandy Kurtyka	31

Anniversaries in December



Anniversary Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
8	Lynn and Barbara Carroll	51
11	Matt and Lydia Ramirez	7
20	Jeff and Jeni Henningson	15
21	Ed and Pam Stressman	50
24	Carlos and Elizabeth Flores	7
27	Tim and April Ryan	15
28	Mike and Wendy Griffith	35

New Classes starting in JANUARY



Look for the signups for Wednesday Night Spring Adult classes

Disciple 1 continues with Molly Hahn and Val Kellogg teaching

Disciple 2 finishes in March with Slyvia Harris teaching

Financial Peace starting in March with

Classes led by Pastor Rick

2 part study of Matthew

5 week Lenten study – He Went to the Cross by Max Lucado

Classes led by Pastor Diamond

5 Practices of Fruitful Living

Small Group Leader Training



Another successful Turkey Drive!

A big **THANK YOU** to the 23 families who delivered 103 boxes containing a turkey, roasting pan, stuffing mix, gravy, milk, butter, rolls, potatoes, vegetable, pumpkin pie and whipped topping on November 19. The recipients in the Gilbert area were so thankful for the generosity of our congregation who donated in excess of \$4400 to purchase the meals. We could not have reached out to support our community in this way without each of you who contributed on some level, either monetarily and/or time.



It's great to be a part of this church family!



Gilbert Men's Ministry Pathfinders Breakfast Invitation

**Saturday December 15 • 7 - 8:30am •
Activity Center**

Please RSVP to MensGroup@gilbertumc.org

- Come enjoy a hearty breakfast
- Meet men for spiritual growth and support
- Personal testimonial & life sharing
- Audio & Video correlation
- Opportunities for involvement in Gilbert Men's Ministry

Blue Christmas Service

**Thursday, Dec. 20
6:00 - 7:00 pm**



Set course for the

Explorer's Luncheon

A casual lunch where we can learn more about you and hear your questions about your faith journey and the church.

For more information, contact Sylvia at connection@gilbertumc.org





The staff of
First Gilbert UMC
want to wish you
and yours a
Safe, Healthy, and
Merry Christmas
season!

The office will be closed in observance of these holidays:

Monday December 24 • Christmas Eve

Tuesday December 25 • Christmas Day

Monday December 31 (open until noon) • New Year's Eve

Tuesday January 1 • New Year's Day

Congregational Care Support Groups

For more information about groups and other support available, please contact Pastor Diamond at pastordiamond@gilbertumc.org



stephen

MINISTRY

Christ caring for people through people



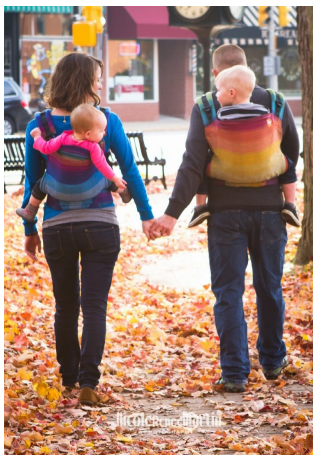
Do you want to learn more about Stephen Ministry?

Please contact Pastor Diamond at pastordiamond@gilbertumc.org



For those grieving the loss of someone close to them

Saturdays
9:00 - 10:30 am
Room 140



Parents with Young Children

This support group is for parents who have new babies or a child under 12 months.

Sundays 9:30 am • Room 201

To join contact Lydia and Matt Ramirez at lydiamramirez@gmail.com

What does church membership mean?

Church membership is a vow taken to support a local body of Christ. It is a way of saying, “I like what is going on here and I want to be a full part of it!” At First UMC of Gilbert, becoming a member is a part of the spiritual journey to becoming a devoted follower of Christ. We believe membership helps you as the member become more aware of the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in your life, especially as you begin living into the ministries of the church.

This is why we host regular membership luncheons. We call them *Exploring Membership* because they are all about exploring in more detail what it means to be a church member. Whether you have been worshipping with us for years or only a week, we want to encourage you to join us for our next luncheon on **December 9th at 12:15** in the Activity Center. We want to share with you about our local body of Christ as well as hear your story and faith questions. If you want to attend this luncheon or have any questions about First UMC of Gilbert, please contact Sylvia Harris at connection@gilbertumc.org or call the church office at 480-892-9166.

Our church welcomes visitors with open arms every Sunday.



Did you know we average three to four new guests every week to our Sunday services? Can you guess how many we have during our Christmas Eve services? Easily over thirty new families, or well over 100 individuals, will visit our campus for the first time in celebration of the birth of our Savior.

We once again look forward to serving **nut-free cookies**, lovingly provided by our church family, between services on Christmas Eve. Please bring your donations to the kitchen on Sunday mornings or drop them off in the church office during the week. Our welcoming ministry is only made possible by your warmth of greeting and your nut-free cookie donations. If you are interested in helping to serve the cookies and cider or have any questions, please contact Sylvia Harris at connection@gilbertumc.org or call the church office at 480-892-9166.

Look What Your Giving is Helping Us Do!

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church. During the month of November, your donations to the church's General Fund:

- Provided staff, volunteers, support and our sanctuary for the Gilbert Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 20. 165 people attended, including choirs and speakers from our church and other churches in our community. It was a wonderful way to kick off the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Provided staff, volunteers, supplies, and support for our 2018 Turkey Drive. On November 20, 23 volunteer families delivered 103 turkey dinners to families in need in our community.
- Provided staff, volunteers, supplies, and support for our annual pledge drive for the operating fund. 26 families turned in their pledges early, on November 11, for a total of \$70,600. As of December, 141 pledges were received for a total of \$488,000. There's still time to turn in your pledge if you haven't already done so. Thanks to everyone who has helped the church's planning for 2019 by turning in a pledge.

Without your gifts, we could not do this work which is focused on our Mission "To Lead People of All Ages on the Journey to Become Deeply Devoted Followers of Jesus"

October financial statement summaries are available in the church office. If you have any questions about the church's finances, or if you would like to receive a copy of the financial statements, please contact Brian O'Brien, Finance Chair (Financechair@gilbertumc.org).

No matter where you happen to be on any particular Sunday, it's easy to make a gift to our church electronically. Use our on-line donation page, the QR code here, or text your gift to 480-712-1057. Why not make it a priority to set up your online or digital giving option? This can be set to reoccur automatically whether you are at worship or out of town. There is no better show of loyalty and care than to support it even when you can't make it to Sunday worship.

If you have any questions about electronic giving options, or if you need help setting it up on your phone, tablet or computer, please contact our Financial Secretary, Taleen Carpenter at 480-892-9166 or financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org.



5 SIMPLE STEPS

TO GIVE THROUGH UMCgo, OUR NEW E-GIVING APP!



1. Download UMCgo in the App Store or Google Play.
2. Search for your church or press 'near me' and choose from the list.
3. Create an account.
4. Enter your giving details (first time only) – Have your credit card or checking account info ready!
5. Make a donation!



A note from the Desert Southwest Conference

Changes in stock donation processing

Well, last month was all about being thankful for our family and friends. It is a time to be thankful for the life bestowed upon us. Time for thanking God for each and every second we are given to share and care for one another. As we approach the end of the year and the busy time for gift giving, we are making the below suggestion as it relates to securities donations.

All mutual fund gifts will be processed on a best efforts basis after December 15, 2018. We kindly ask that you please encourage your donors to make their donations of these types of securities prior to December 15 if they wish to receive their tax credit for 2018. We will continue to make our best efforts to ensure a smooth transfer for donors. Please follow the instructions for stock transfers.

1. You or your financial advisor **MUST** provide us with the following:
Security Information: Security Name, Number of Shares, and Symbol/Ticker/Cusip.
Security Delivering Institution Information: Security delivering institution name, contact name, phone, e-mail address.
2. Provide us with your complete name, address, city, state, and zip code so that we may send you proper IRS documentation for your gift. In addition, please instruct DSUMF as to any designations of the funds realized after our sale of your gifted securities.
3. The necessary information numbered on 1. And 2. above may be sent to DSUMF via e-mail (accounts@dscumc.org) or fax (602-265-1524). All the preceding information must be received at least three business days before the expected date of the transfer.
4. Please instruct your financial institution to transfer securities to:
DTC #0443
Pershing, LLC
For credit to account # N7M100129
Client account name: UMC Benefit Board Inc.
5. Once sold they will further credit DSUMF who will then disburse the funds realized per your designation and send you the documentation for your gift required by the IRS.

If you, as the beneficiary, know in advance your donor's name and gift, please provide this information to us. There can never be too much information.

Here to serve you and your church!

Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation
<http://www.dsumf.org/>

Preschool News



Lora Norris
Adrienne Mesa
480-892-9166
preschool@gilbertumc.org

In November:

We had a fun filled time learning about Apples and Turkeys. The preschool students enjoyed their pumpkin science activities including describing the inside and outside of the pumpkin, observing if a pumpkin will float or sink, and tasting pumpkin pie. The PreK students enjoyed their annual Thanksgiving feast by making a Friendship Mix out of a variety of cereals and candies. They shared their feast with a loving parent and Thanks and fun was had by all!

In December:

Christmas in Our Jammies!

All are invited to our preschool Christmas program on Dec.13th at 6:30pm in the sanctuary!! Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday and wear your special Christmas jammies!

The children love to make Graham Cracker houses with their classmates! We love this fun activity each year!





Help our church Preschool by linking your Fry's card to our school through the community rewards program! Help us thrive with no cost to you!

Go online and sign up with our number: **80635**
You'll find us under faith based.

Advent Activities~ Try making an advent chain like this one. It's a great visual to countdown to Jesus' birth!

Advent Paper Chain

One Christmas night so long ago,
a star shone down so all would know,
That in a manger, on that night,
a savior was born, our guiding light.
Now Christmas time is almost here,
a very special time of year,
When everyone anticipates,
that night when we can celebrate.
As you remove a link each night,
remember the start that shone so bright
And told the story of Jesus' birth,
the Son of God, here on Earth!



REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will begin in January! We need your help to spread the word about our wonderful school. We'll have openings in Parent Tot, 3s and PreK. Everyone is welcome! Tell a friend, give us a call and come for a tour! More information about our programs is available online: gibertumcpreschool.com.

If you have any questions about the preschool, please contact Lora Norris or Adrienne Mesa at preschool@gibertumc.org or call 480 892 9166.

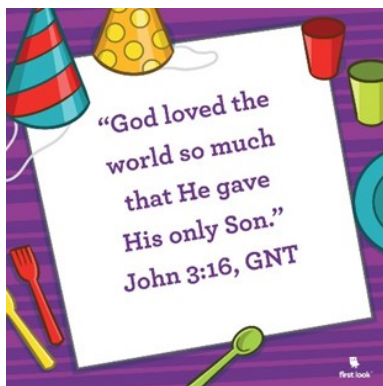
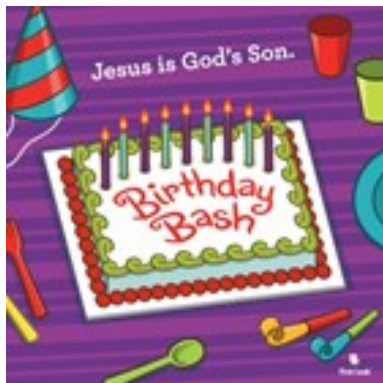
"The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with JOY" Psalm 126:3



December 2018 Children's ministry Preschool:

Happy birthday, Jesus!

Yes, we know that Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday, but do your preschoolers know? It will be a new idea to some of them. We have the best jobs in the world as parents and small group leaders because we get to share with preschoolers for the first time that Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday! Jesus has a birthday? Yep! He sure does! And, we are going to celebrate it BIG! We also want our preschoolers to know that the reason we celebrate Jesus' birthday is because Jesus is God's Son. God's Son deserves a celebration as big as Christmas and a birthday bash as big!



Sunday Mornings
FirstKidz
Sunday School for
Elementary Children
at 9:30am
Kid's Worship at
11:00am

Nursery
Professionally staffed
nursery from
8:00 am-12:30pm.

Preschool:

Week one: The Angel and Mary
Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46

Week two: Jesus Born in a Stable
Luke 2:1-7

Week three: Shepherds
Luke 2:6-18

Week four: Happy Birthday Jesus!
Retelling of the Entire Christmas Story
Please join us for a birthday party for Jesus!

Week 5: Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

**"GOD LOVED THE
WORLD SO MUCH THAT
HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON."
JOHN 3:16, GNT**

Elementary and preteens:

WEEK 1

We kick off the month with the greatest verse in all of Scripture, **John 3:16**. God loves the world so much that He wants to spend forever with us. That was made possible through Jesus!

Bottom Line: God did something about our greatest need. Jesus was God's gift to the world. We pray that kids start to understand their need for a Savior and put their trust in Jesus.

WEEK 2

Next, we look at **Luke 1:26-56**, when Gabriel came and made a huge announcement to Mary. God was about to rescue the world through Jesus, and she had an important role to play. Mary was overwhelmed by God's love for the world and the part she got to play by fulfilling God's plan to send a Savior.

Bottom Line: God can use anyone to meet others' needs. For whatever reason, kids may feel like God can't use them to show others His love. We hope they see through the story of Mary, that God can use anyone to show His compassion to the world.

WEEK 3

In week three we head to **Luke 2:1-7** to the familiar moment when Jesus is born. Even though Jesus was born where the animals stayed, God took care of all the details. The Savior of the World was born, and God's compassion for us was on full display.

Bottom Line: God gave us the greatest gift. God had been planning a rescue since the very beginning. Jesus was God's greatest gift to make it possible for all people to be with God forever.

WEEK 4

Please join us for a birthday party for Jesus!

WEEK 5

We finish our month on compassion in **1 John 4:9-12**, where we read about God's great love for us when He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins. John reminds us that no one has ever seen God, but when we show love to others, people see God through us.

Bottom Line: Love others because God loved you first.



Happy Birthday Jesus Party!

Parents join us for a fun birthday party for Jesus with all our Sunday school classes at 9:30 on Sunday December 23rd!

Mission:

Our kid's offerings will go towards the Toy drive! Help them tithe with money they earn or you can also take them to buy any \$10 toy and bring it in!



Please join us Christmas Eve for a family fun Christmas service and pageant @ 4 pm!



December 2018 Youth News

Christmas Wreaths Arrival Date

Thank you to all that made a purchase during our fundraiser. Wreaths will arrive here at church in Early December. Orders will be available for distribution on Sunday mornings after arrival or you may contact Ray to pick up at the office during the week. We'll have a few extras to sell at the distribution table in case you missed the sale earlier. Thank you all for your support!

Feed My Starving Children

Thank you to everyone that came & helped make this a great event. We had 30 people packing food to help those children in need worldwide, as we have much to be thankful for here in Gilbert!

Confirmation Class- starts in January 2019

Confirmation class is open to all students currently 7th-12th grades that have not been confirmed. Classes will be on Sunday afternoons with the exact time TBD. RSVP by email to Ray by 12/23/18 if you're interested and we'll send you more specific details to make a final decision.

REMINDERS for December 2018

12/2 – 2-5 pm at Pollack Theater. UMC Youth Groups Christmas Party @ Pollack Tempe theater.

12/9 – 5-8:30 pm in AC. Chili & Caroling Event with Family Ministry & Scouts

12/16 – Party planning session- for our Family Promise dinner & Christmas Party on Friday

12/21 – Family Promise Dinner & Christmas Party

12/23 – NO GATHERING (Christmas eve)

12/30 – NO GATHERING (New Years eve)



Christmas Eve Services

- 4:00 Family
- 4:30 Live Nativity with Petting Zoo
- 6:00 Traditional Lessons and Carols
with Organ and Choir
Nursery Care Ages 3 and under
- 8:00 Traditional Lessons and Carols
with Organ and Choir
- 9:30 Pre-service Music
- 10:00 Traditional Lessons
with Handbells and Holy Communion

